

## Ho-Chunk Nation hosts U.S. Department of Education Listening Session

Kathleen Roberts Staff Writer

Indigenous people have dealt with bullying, disproportionate discipline, and offensive imagery and symbolism for a long time, but the United States Department of Education, through the White House Initiative on American Indian and Alaska Native Education, is making an effort to document, understand and take

action to curtail these problems.

The Ho-Chunk Nation hosted the School Environment Listening Tour for Native American Students, held in the North Hall of the La Crosse Center on Sunday, October 26.
The purpose of this event was to

gather information directly from students who have experienced or may currently be experiencing discrimination in some form.
"Education is diverse so we can

maintain our identity," said Ho-Chunk Nation President Jon Green-deer. He told the audience that with the White House initiative, to identify and address the issues of discrimination, the Native population has a voice and it is worth listening to.

"It is a great honor to have Bill

and the members of his team from the Office of Civil Rights here today," said Greendeer.

Following the president's welcome, William Mendoza, Executive Director White House Initiative on American Indian and Alaska Native Education, gave an overview of the initiative.

Before Mendoza intro-duced Attorney at Law, Patrick Alexander of the Ú.S. Department of Education for Civil Rights, Mendoza said, "We're here to listen to your stories.

The attorney, Patrick Alexander, explained that anyone can file a complaint or testimony. He gave an example: if a teacher is filing a com-plaint on behalf of a student, that teacher is required to get parental consent. If it is a group no consent is needed.

Alexander mentioned the importance that the Office of Civil Rights receive testimonies. He gave the email address and mailing addresses

to file complaints.
David O'Connor, Education Consultant, American Indian Studies Program. gave definitions of the wording that is included in the initiative. O'Connor listed the protected classes, are

as follows: race, religion, creed, age, national origin, ancestry, pregnancy, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, disability and

He also gave the defini-tion of discrimination is: any action, policy or practice which is detrimental to a pu-pil or a group of pupils, or in which limits or denies them the opportunity, privileges, roles or rewards based, in whole or part, on protected class status; this includes bias, stereotyping and harassment.

After O'Connor defined the initiative's wording, the floor was open for student testimony. Several adults gave testimony to experiences they had as children, memories that were not pleasant.

Students gave testimony of incidents at school, in-cluding one of the most recent incidents that happened at Black River Falls High School.

Alexander asked them to be sure to submit their statements to the OCR for documentation.

Barbara Munson, an Oneida artist, who designed a logo for the Wisconsin Indian Education Association



Ho-Chunk Nation President, Jon Greendeer, welcomes the White House panelists, audience and other distinguished guests involved in the U. S. Department of Education Listening Session.

"Indian" Mascot and Logo taskforce, used the open microphone opportunity to share her research on these issues

She recommended to Mendoza and Alexander that the use of the words "potentially harmful" in reference to the impact of negative logos/offensive imagery and symbolism, is not strong enough. She explained that throughout her research it had been proven these negatives do harm and are "harmful" and she suggested that this wording be changed in the initiative reports.

Once the tours have been completed in the following states: Alaska, Michigan, California, Wisconsin, Washington, Oklahoma and New York, students' testimonies will be compiled into a report that will go to President Obama.

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Francis Steindorf, former Department of Public Instruction (DPI) Educational Consultant, J.P. Leary, who followed Steindorf at DPI as consultant and David O'Connor, currently with DPI in the same position, reunite at the Listening Session at the La Crosse Center.

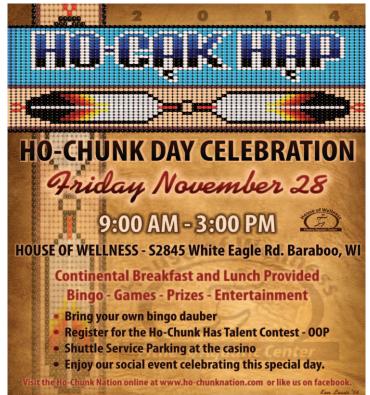


### To the Editor;

On Tuesday October 21st in Mr. Johnson's Environmental Science class some kids were making comments about Native Americans and Columbus Day. Clint Voge made the comment "it's Columbus Day. I will give you blankets with diseases on them." He was also saying that last week I was defending myself and other Native Americans who would be very angry with these comments. So I said back, "white men raped our women." Mr. Johnson got involved which I thought was to stop the discussion, but he said "your Native American women raped our men" and near the end of class hour he said "you won the "debate" I will give you blankets." Everyone laughed about this, but I also was laughing because I had no idea or what else to do. He said it in front of the whole classroom with other Native American students. I personally really thought that was inappropriate and unpro-fessional. I also thought that kind of racism was over and I felt very embarrassed and he made me feel ashamed of being myself.
I brought it up to my Mom

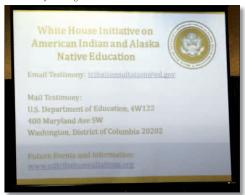
I brought it up to my Mom and sisters thinking that it was no big deal. But the more they got into telling me how wrong Mr. Johnson was about making those comments. I began to cry a little because I realized that he did make those comment and was able to get away with it. I didn't realize what was really hap-pening and that this kind of behavior that Mr. Johnson shared that this kind of rac-ism is still here. I thought it was gone and I honestly don't know how to feel about this. I didn't feel like he valued my culture and background like he should. Mr. Johnson should have stopped the comments and discussion immediately not escalate the topic to make it worse. I'm upset and realize why some students (Native American) think our schools don't value us as a different race, culture and background. I said the stuff that I said to defend myself and the student and Mr. Johnson said harsher comments. I do know that there are teachers who would be outraged and angered by the comments the student and teacher said. There are some teachers that I feel actually do respect my culture and back-

Graci Rave Grade 12 BRF High School Daughter of Rebecca L. Rave



### **Education Listening**

Continued from Page 1



These are the email and mail address to submit testimonies to the Office of Civil Rights.





#### HO CHUNK NATION

Office of the General Council

The Office of the General Council would like to thank all tribal members who attended the 2014 General Council. The GCA would like to thank all organizations and individuals that contributed to a successful annual meeting; Ho-Chunk Nation (HN) Police Department, Ho-Chunk & Administration Security, Bear Clan Security, the Andrew Blackhawk Legion Post & Auxiliary, Bear Heart & Little Thunder Drum Groups, IT volunteers, Winston Shieh & staff, Chula Vista & staff, Lamers, Voight, US Coachways Bus Services, the Print Shop, Gerald Cleveland, Iris Cleveland, Elliott Funmaker, Robert Funmaker, Michael Rave, Gary Lonetree, payout clerks, and everyone that assisted.

Office of the General Council 27374 State Highway 21 Tomah, WI 54660 Phone: (715) 284-7891

Pee Na Ge Ge Hi Pee Pink Sha Nay

## **Ho-Chunk Nation to host Traditional** Circle of Elder and Youth gathering

Ken Luchterhand Staff Writer

Between 500 and 600 people from all around the United States and Canada will be coming to the Ho-Chunk Powwow Grounds next year.

They'll be here attending the annual Traditional Circle of Elders and Youth.

To look at the facilities and coordinate the event. three representatives from the American Indian Institute came to the Ho-Chunk Nation in Black River Falls on October 8.

The group of coordinators, Leonard Bends, Eric Noyes and Lisa Sutton, began the day at the Blackdeer homestead in the Wazee area, being the guests for breakfast,

then came to the Powwow Grounds to examine the possibilities.

The arrangement came about because many Ho-Chunk youth and adults attended this year's event in New York. When it came time to arrange for next year's ven-ue, Ho-Chunk representatives stepped forward to volunteer their site.

"They were looking for someplace to host next year's event and were hoping some-one to step forward," said Ho-Chunk Nation Chief Clayton Winneshiek. "Eskimos wanted to host it, but they needed another year to get ready

Greg Blackdeer, Wilfrid Cleveland and Winneshiek discussed the possibility of



Discussing the logistics of the national gathering, (from left) Leonard Bends, Eric Noyes, Wilfrid Cleveland, Lisa Sutton and Clayton Winneshiek decide where a centralized ceremonial fire could be placed.

eonard Bends, a member of the Crow Nation in Montana, points out different areas of the powwow grounds for the upcoming Traditional Circle of Elder and Youth gathering.

bringing it to Black River

"This is a good idea. We can help other tribes," Winneshiek said.
The staff of the Elder and

Youth Conference was passed on to Winneshiek at the end of the last conference.

The event has been going on for 38 years and the closest it has been to Black River Falls is Lac du Flambeau in

One thing the coordinators wanted people to understand is that the event is considered a gathering, not a convention. Important to the gathering is a centralized ceremonial fire, where a fire would be burning throughout the event, from the beginning until the end, Bends explained.

To look at that requirement, several of the Ho-Chunk Nation employees are consider-ing how to make the ceremonial fire in or near the center of the powwow arena.

"This is exciting for the community and we're excited to be here," said Lisa Sutton of the American Institute in Montana. "Every place is different, which allows every one to see the nature of each

The Ho-Chunk Nation will be responsible for all the coordination of the event she said, but the coordinators from the American Indian Institute take care of the logistics, such as designating an airport, transportation to and from the Minneapolis airport, provide special accommodations such as wheelchairs and any other medically issues for anyone attending the event. "We'll be trying to get ev-

eryone involved. It will be a Nation-wide effort," Cleveland said. "We'll go to the different districts to gain sup-

### **VOTE TUESDAY.** NOVEMBER 4, 2014

#### **ATTENTION DISTRICT 1 MEMBERS**

THE BLACK RIVER FALLS SCHOOL REFERENDUM IS ON THE BALLOT. WE ARE ENCOURAGING ALL TRIBAL MEMBERS TO GET OUT AND VOTE

TRANSPORTATION WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR ALL TRIBAL MEMBERS IN THE BLACK RIVER FALLS AREA FROM 11:30 AM-7:00 PM.

IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF A RIDE TO THE POLLING SITE, PLEASE CONTACT NEHOMAH THUNDERCLOUD AT (715) 299-1594 OR KATIE FUNMAKER AT (715) 896-5452.



Attention: The Next Deadline of the Hocąk Worak will be Nov. 7th which will be published on Nov. 14th. Please contact Enrollment at ext. 1015 if you have a change of address or would like to be placed on the mailing list.

### **Rabies Clinic for** District 4





Tuesday, November 25, 2014 2:00 pm—6:30 pm Milwaukee Branch Office

Paperwork for your animal must be filled out prior to it receiving the shot. Paperwork will be available at the Milwaukee Branch Office. For more information contact Cheri Byhre at 1 (414) 747-8680

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# Ho-Chunk Gaming and Ho-Chunk Nation donate \$27,500 to Badger Honor Flight

Submitted by Lynette Le-Garde, Ho-Chunk Gaming Nekoosa-PR

Representatives from Ho-Chunk Gaming Wisconsin and The Ho-Chunk Nation completed a check presentation to The Badger Honor Flight on Wednesday, October 15, 2014 at Ho-Chunk Gaming Wisconsin Dells in Baraboo, Wisconsin. Ho-Chunk Gaming and The Ho-Chunk Gaming and The Ho-Chunk Nation collectively donated \$27,500.00 to The Badger Honor Flight. The next flight is scheduled for Saturday, October 18, 2014. Brian Ziegler, Badger Honor Flight President, met for the check presentation.

The first Badger Honor Flight was in 2010. Since then there have been 16 flights. There will be 85 veterans and 74 guardians on the flight. They will tour Arlington National Cemetery, Marine Corp Memorial, WWII Memorial, Korean War Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the Lincoln Memorial. To date Ho-Chunk Gaming Wisconsin and The Ho-Chunk Nation have donated \$148,073.00 to the Badger Honor Flight. The Badger Honor Flight flies WWII veterans and terminally ill veterans to the see the various Memorials in Washington D.C. It is no cost for the veterans to attend this trip. Proceeds from Ho-Chunk Gaming Wisconsin Dells New Year's Eve wristband sales will also be donated to the Badger Honor Flight.

#### 17th Badger Honor Flight On October 18, 2014 four

On October 18, 2014 four representatives went from the Ho-Chunk Nation/Ho-Chunk Gaming on the Badger Honor Flight which included Missy Redcloud, Douglas Greengrass, Donald Greengrass and Lynette LeGarde. The 1500th Veteran flew on this flight and was also given special recognition during the welcoming ceremony. The trip included

a tour of Arlington Nation Cemetery, Changing of The Guard at The Tomb of The Unknown, The Marine Corp Memorial, WWII Memorial, Korean War Memorial, Vietnam Veteran Memorial, Lincoln Memorial and Air Force Memorial. The group were able to meet former US Senator Bob Dole at the WWII Memorial. When asked about this

flight, Missy Redcloud com-mented, "I always thought this was an amazing thing to do for our veterans. Being able to experience it with some of our heroes was one of the most memorable things that I've been able to do it in my life. My favorite mo-ment of the day was seeing all the support and respect shown to the veterans. From the moment they stepped out of their vehicles, to walking into the airports, to every stop we made there were people showing support and respect. I want to Thank Ho-Chunk Gaming Nekoosa, The Ho-Chunk Nation and The Badger Honor Flight for allowing me to have this opportunity The memory of that day will be with me forever."

Donald Greengrass stated, "The Badger Honor Flight was an experience I will never forget. It just amazes me how many veterans that can still be able to make such a whirl-wind experience. They seem like pretty tough guys. I was honored to be part of such an elite group of veterans who sacrificed so much for this country and lived to tell about it. I had many sad moments walking through the WWII Memorial thinking about my father who never got to see it.

I want to thank you and all the volunteers and personnel who put these flights together. I am truly grateful to have trav-elled and be thanked by those veterans who appreciated the Ho-Chunk Nation for sponsoring the flight. Keep up the good work. My favorite part of the experience was meet-ing Senator Bob Dole at the



L-R: Patti Herrera/Ho-Chunk Gaming Wisconsin Dells, Tracy Pecore/Ho-Chunk Gaming Wittenberg, Lynette LeGarde/Ho-Chunk Gaming Nekoosa, Barbara Kelley/Ho-Chunk Gaming Nekoosa, Rob Reider/Ho-Chunk Nation, Tris Harris/Ho-Chunk Gaming Black River Falls, Collin Price/Ho-Chunk Nation, Brian Ziegler/Badger Honor Flight, Michelle Ramberg/Ho-Chunk Nation, Judy Whitehorse/Ho-Chunk Gaming Madison.

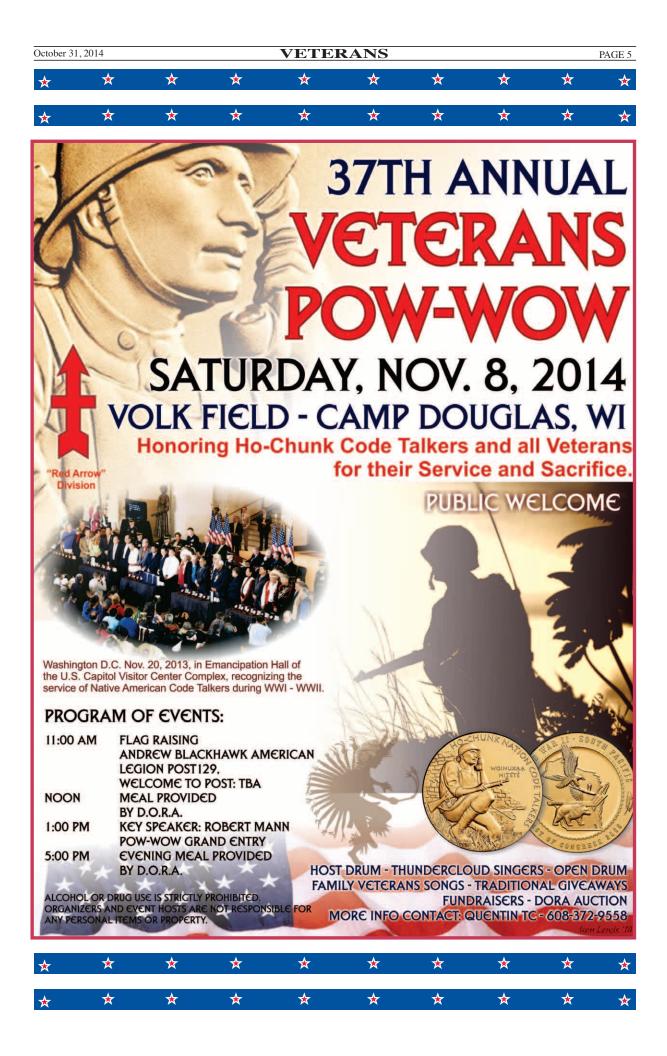
a genuine American and loves those veterans. The best part of the tour for me was visiting the Marine Corp Memorial. We sat on the ground and ate lunch. I was thinking back of all the times as young men and these guys sat down on the ground with their fellow Marines, Soldiers, and Corpsmen eating a meal on distant lands defending this country. They were all troopers on that busy day, getting police es-

corted around Washington DC like real VIPs."

The next Badger Honor Flight is scheduled for April 25, 2015. It will be the 18th Badger Honor Flight.







## **Veterans housing** in Sandpillow

The Veterans Supportive Housing Facility is located in East Sandpillow, Black River Falls, WI. It is a project that was funded by the Ho-Chunk Nation Legislature for the benefit of Hocak Veterans in need of housing. Ho-Chunk Housing & Community Development Agency was tasked with building the project (Development Director: Neil Whitegull & Staff) with substantial completion slated for November, 2014.

### **Public Welcome – Walk Through**

November 10, 2014

(Following the HCN Veterans Celebration at Tribal Office Building)

1:00PM - 3:00PM

Black River Falls, WI

Information on the Veterans Supportive Housing Project will be available on-site.

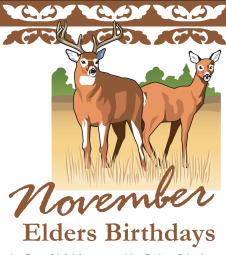
Please attend this walk-through as we all continue to work together and develop our Ho-Chunk communities and support our Veterans.



Veterans Supportive Housing (front view - taken from the east)



Veterans supportive Housing (rear view - taken from the west)



- Dawn Littlejohn Ruth Whitehorse
  - Burns Roger Garlow Stanley Decorah Wesley Brockhaus
- Michael La Mere Gertrude Rusu Carol Garvin Georgia Oltman Dale Littlejohn
- Leona Davenport Earl Topping Kirk Matcha
- Carol Riese
- Stanley Blackdeer Sandra Sue Lanier Sandra Winneshiek
- Thomas Hopinkah Delphine Blackcoon Byron Lonetree Charlotte Tipton
- Rosetta Rae Hunt
- Tennyson De Cora

- Barbara Schaub Lindley Thompson Jr.
- Lois Lonetree
- Margaret Pardini Shirley Petersen Jo Ann Maney
- Mary Jo Brooks Daniel Sine
- Marilyn Vasquez
- Gail Funmaker
- Robert Yellowbank Robert Mudd
- Errol Whitewing
- Martin Yellowbank
- Elena Greendeer Elizabeth Houle
- Louise Redcloud Mary Anwash Lavonne Lincoln
- Sharyn Whiterabbit
- Myrtle Long Joseph Gleason
- Alvin Rockman



**District One Community** Center

**Elder Social** 

Date: Thursday, December 18, 2014

Time: 10:00 AM

Place: District One Community Center

Come and join the

fun!

Bingo

Lunch

Feel free to bring a prize

55 and Older

Need More information?

Contact Melissa or Levi at





# Missing and Exploited Children director addresses Tribal Chiefs

Ken Luchterhand Staff Writer

Robert Hoever remembers the panic he and his wife ex-perienced when he lost track of their young daughter in a

public setting.
"I was in a state of panic,'
he said. "I can't imagine what
parents of lost children must go through when their children have been missing for

hours, days, or even weeks."
Hoever, the director of
National Center for Missing and Exploited Children in Alexandria, VA., spoke before a quarterly meeting of the Wisconsin Tribal Chiefs on Thursday, October 23 at Ho-Chunk Gaming – Black River

He came to Wisconsin to meet with Tribal Law Enforcement regarding longterm missing children.

Susan WhiteHorse, the manager of the Wisconsin Clearinghouse for Missing and Exploited Children and Adults based in Madison, or ganized visit with Wisconsin Tribal Police Chiefs along with coordination from Ho-Chunk Nation President Jon Greendeer, Social Services, and House of Wellness.

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children is developing a "Long-Term Missing Children Guide" for law enforcement nationwide and it's imperative that the guide include information from Tribal Police Chiefs about cases involving long term missing Native American children, Hoever

said.

He hopes to get a focus group together to get some guidance to say "this is what we're looking for," he said.

Hoever hoped to learn from Tribal Police Chiefs - how the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children could be more effective in assisting assisting. be more effective in assisting them on cases involving missing and exploited children in Indian Country

In addition, Hoever provided information regarding missing and exploited children resources, services and training available to Tribal Police Chiefs.

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children receives on the average about 500 calls per day, he

The organization is based in the Washington, D.C. suburbs and consists of a team of more than 350 employees and 200 volunteers.

The center also is responsible for issuing the Amber Alert, which is a system that uses multiple forms of public media to inform residents that a child is missing or has been abducted.

"The aim is to get every state to the same level, espe-cially using electronic media,"

As the Internet has become a primary tool for sexually exploiting children, NCMEC established the CyberTipline, which provides a means for people to report suspected child sexual exploitation which can involve multiple jurisdictions, he said.

The NCMEC is the leading nonprofit organization in the U.S., working with law enforcement, families and the professionals who serve them on issues related to missing and sexually exploited children.

Another service NCMEC offers is termed Team Adam, made up of all retired law enforcement professionals. The team uses many public databases to help with case analysis and mapping. Forensic artists create age-progressed photos and facial and skull reconstructions, and provide assistance to help track noncompliant sex offenders, he

Another program the NC-MEC has implemented is the Post-Disaster Reunification of Children. The plan involves a procedure to safely remove children from dangerous settings to a safe location so that they can be reunited with

Another challenge for the NCMEC is the handling of lead from old cases, which in-cludes transferring all the old information into digital data.

"They didn't have the technology back then. There needs to be a way to manage the information and to resurrect that information with modern media," Hoever said.



Whitehorse and Hoever listen as President Greendeer explains that often resources to locate a missing person can be difficult to obtain, such as in the case of missing Ho-Chunk member Gene Cloud.



Robert Hoever, director with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, poses on October 23 with Ho-Chunk Nation President Jon Greendeer and Susan Whitehorse, manager of Wisconsin Clearinghouse for Missing and **Exploited Children and Adults.** 

And searching for people is getting more organized and sophisticated.

"It's becoming easier to map out statistical probabili-ties," he said. "We've been very successful with analytical data.

For instance, based on previous sightings, people analyzing the information can accurately predict where the criminal and victim may be, or may be headed.

"We were always told that 'time is your enemy,' that the more time that has passed, the less likely of a good out-come," he said. "But there are instances when time can be on your side."

For instance, advances in analyzing evidence can help discover who might be the perpetrator from develop-ments in DNA analysis. Another instance would be when the abductors become more confident they has gotten away with the crime because so much time has passed, and consequently are discovered for their crime.

Social media and public engagement is a key component is solving many of the cases. That's why using Internet media, such as FaceBook to help identify abduction victims is so important

So far, 650 children have been identified but there are many who have not been identified.

"How many are not even reported as missing?" Hoever asked. "Many of the unreported children are those who are living in foster homes. When the child is missing, the foster parents assume the child ran back home.

The act of abducting and exploiting children affects more than just the child vic-



Hoever tells members of the Wisconsin Tribal Police Chiefs about his desire to develop a Long-Term Missing Children Guide with their help. He also told how he desires better communication with Native American communities to help solve cases of missing and exploited children.

tims. It affects the community, the parents and the siblings, as well. Hovever gave an ex-ample in which a brother to a victim became very violent and in trouble with the law because of what was experienced in the family.

Communities are affected in which the psychological aspects of having a bad element in their midst creates a traumatic memory. Frequently houses in which crimes are committed as demolished at the request of the community to remove that element from their lives.

An element of trust needs to exist when dealing with missing and exploited children in order to be successful in solv-

ing the crimes.
"I know more Native Americans are missing than are being reported," Hoever said. "I think we would get better resources if we didn't say they were Native American. Í'm trying to develop a program in which we can deal directly with the elders of the tribes. How can we do a better job? We need representatives to

guide us what to do.
"Tribal input is so small when dealing with missing and exploited children in Indian Country," he said. "There are issues out there," he said, "They're just not being reported."

# Women's Talking Circle learn to make baby moccasins

Kathleen Roberts Staff Writer

The Women's Talking Circle met with instructor Brandi Lonetree, of Chippewa Falls, to learn how to make baby moccasins on August 19 and September 1.

The instructor's father taught her at an early age, how to make moccasins and how to bead them. Wanting to share this cultural art, Lonetree decided to offer this instruction to the women's

Vanessa Carriaga smiles for the camera as she works with the leather material

for making baby moccasins.

The sponsors of the group, the Ho-Chunk Domestic Abuse and the Behavioral Health Divisions, provided the supplies and materials for the project. The group's facilitator is Hera Lonetree-Rindahl, a counselor from the Ho-Chunk Nation Behavioral Health Division.

Starting the first session on August 19, the group made

Luckily for the crafters,

Carriaga's grandson, for a pattern template. 'He wiggled his foot at first, then he watched as they traced around it," Carriaga said.

After tracing the moccasin pattern onto the leather, the participants carefully cut out each ting them out wasn't as easy as it



quite sharp enough, but I still had fun," said Carriaga.

"This project was more difficult than it looked, but I really enjoyed socializing with the other ladies." Sara WhiteEagle and Trisha Carriaga also participated in the cultural handicraft.

The second session held on September 1, included learning how to correctly stitch the pieces together. "The in-structor helped me stitch the pieces together. The stiches had to loop in one direction and match the way the pieces fit together without having a said Carriaga.

gap," said Carriaga.

Lonetree gave each participant small pliers to pull the needle and heavy sinew through the leather. Other wise, the participants said it was nearly impossible to pull the needle through the tough material.

Instructor Lonetree said the beading could be done before the entire moccasin is completely assembled, but a third and final session is scheduled to plan and start the decora-

tive beading.

During each session, the women share and praise each other's work. Several of the participants agreed that mak ing the moccasins has taken a longer time than planned, but the results will be rewarding.



Barely seeing over the table is Evan Carriaga next to Trisha Carriaga and Sara WhiteEagle while they are making the little moccasins.



The leather pieces are cut out ready to be stitched together, creating baby moccasins

### "Walk For Those In The Past, Present And Future"

November is National Diabetes Awareness month. To promote awareness and our dedication to fighting this disease, we will be holding walks in Black River Falls at the Tribal Office Building, in Wittenberg and at the House of Wellness in Baraboo. The walks will be held on Friday, November 7th from 9 am to 12 pm with a snack and water provided.

In addition, information on November Diabetes BASIC's class will be available for those interested.

Together we can raise awareness and fight this disease! Be a part of this important event and help yourself and those around you to stand up and fight!

If you have any questions regarding these events call Rachel Montana at 715-284-9851, ext 5039.

# Thoms continues education and lands school district job

Kathleen Roberts Staff Writer

Ho-Chunk tribal member. Dawn Thoms has a lot of experience in managerial skills, program planning and working with people, but she was not satisfied with only that.

"I have been an employee for the Ho-Chunk Nation for most of my adult life. I was in Youth Services for about seven years. I also worked at Whitetail Crossing Nekoosa and Rainbow Casino," said Thoms.

"I wanted to put myself in a better career position, to make a difference somewhere. I always felt there was something more that I could and should

She attended Mid-State Technical College for a few general courses, but now she is going back to school with the goal of earning a degree. "I was inspired by both of my parents to continue my educa-tion. My family is very sup-portive of me," she said. "It's never too late to go back to school. I chose to

resign from my last job to pursue my education full time and I'm glad I did."

She thought about continuing her education for several years. "Going back to school wasn't a hard decision, but I had to overcome some barriers, including procrastina-tion," she said.

"We moved to Lac Du Flambeau to be near my

husband's mother. When she passed away, we moved back to Wisconsin Rapids to be closer to my mother. After my mother's passing, I went back to work at the youth center. While I was at the center, I realized I had to go back to school, I had put it off too long. I resigned from the youth center. I visited the Mid-State Technical College (MSTC) website, filled out an online application and paid the fee."

Thoms' best advice to others, "Stop procrastinating and just do it."

She attended general core classes at MSTC in Wisconsin Rapids, January through May

"I took Interpersonal Communications, Introduction to Microsoft Office and Introduction to Business. I knew I wanted a degree in Business Management. I originally planned on getting only an Associate's degree from Mid-State Technical College and didn't realize that Lakeland College was part of Mid-State's campus," she said. "I went online for informa-

tion on Lakeland College. I decided to get an Associate's degree at Mid-State then continue my studies at Lakeland College to earn a Bachelor's

degree."
Thoms did not want to wait rolled in Rasmussen College located in Wausau, during the

summer quarter.
"I contacted the Ho-Chunk Nation Higher Education Department for scholarship information and applied for the Higher Education Summer Program Scholarship. There was a lot of paperwork, but it was all worth it. I did get the scholarship."
"I made the Dean's List

spring 2014 and received a certificate in the mail recently. I think school is much easier now because my classes are online and it's convenient for me. I take care of my younger sister and I can be home for her," she said. When Thoms was visiting

her sister's school website, she decided to check job postings. She saw an opening for a Native American Program

"I didn't plan on going back to work, but I couldn't pass up the opportunity to serve my community. I applied for the job online. A month later I had an interview and got the job. I'm happy that I applied," she said.

To make a difference in this new job position, Thoms hopes to get more parents involved and informed about resources that are available for their students. She will be working with Native American students and their families in the Wisconsin Rapids School District, to help them achieve their academic goals. "We had elections for of-

Dawn Thoms keeps her grades up, to be on the Dean's List, and fulfills her job duties as the Native American Program Liaison for the Wisconsin Rapids School District.

ficers of a parent committee. This committee will coincide with the Johnson O'Malley Program meetings. I have been working with Jessica McMillan, Ho-Chunk Nation School Community Relations Specialist, to get this part of the program going," said Thoms

"My future plans are to start a non-profit organization to benefit all Native Americans. There will be specific goals

that this nonprofit would strive toward. With my work history combined with my business degree, I will be able to achieve what I feel I was meant to do.

Thoms will graduate in 2016 with a bachelor's degree in Business Management. "My graduation date may change due to my class schedule, but regardless, I know that it will be worth it," she

# Ceexhaci Youth holds Family **Fun Night**

Kathleen Roberts Staff Writer

The Nekoosa Youth and Learning Center staff, youth and families gathered for a traditional, fall harvest themed Family Fun Night.

A traditional meal was served which included maa-

hic, milk weed soup, made with milk weed the youth had picked and preserved for later use. The meal also included squash and corn harvested from the youths' organic garden. The youth expressed their delight telling the other diners they had grown the

vegetables.

After the meal and a brief time for socializing, the youth and their families moved into another room to play the moc-casin game. Larry Walker added to the festivities by providing items needed to play the game.

Walker gave a brief description and history of the moc-

casin game and had the youth chose their teams. The adults were content to observe and cheer the youth on as they played.

NYLC Home School Coordinator, John Dick, demonstrates how to make corn on the cob disappear.





Kaelynn Chasenah bites the corn on the cob she and the other youth harvested from the Nekoosa Youth and Learning Center's organic garden.



Larry Walker travelled from Wittenberg to share culture and tradition by providing a moccasin game at Family Fun Night.

# **American Red Cross Benefit** Concert held at HCG-BRF

benefit concert was held on October 17 in the bingo hall at 8:30 p.m. five dollars of every ticket sold was donated back to the American Red Cross. The first band up was Free Fallen, with music tribute to Tom Petty every song they sang the dance floor was full and with the audience singing

The next set was the band Arch Allies with tribute to music of Styx Journey and REO Speedwagon. All the people in attendance were either on the dance floor or standing up moving to the music. It was very enjoyable with a stroll down memory



The first band Free Fallen had the audience on their



Tribute to Styx, Journey and REO Speedwagon by the band Arch Allies at the American Red Cross benefit concert.

# Unmet Needs benifit concert will feature Blackhawk



Submitted by Tris Harris Senior Manager-

Public Relations, Ho-Chunk Gaming - BRF On November 23rd, 2014, BLACKHAWK, featuring the Outlaws will be at Ho-Chunk Gaming Black River Falls at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$30 in advance and \$35 the day of the concert. \$5 of every ticket sold will go to the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Unmet Needs Program for

families of deployed Veterans. Ho-Chunk Gaming Black River Falls has been supporting the Unmet Needs Program over the last 5 years. Last year, we decided to combine a great concert with a portion of ticket sales to go to Unmet Needs and since the concert was sold out, we were able to make a \$3000 donation! We hope to be able to donate another \$3000 this

year with your help.
The Unmet Needs program gives immediate financial

help to the local families of deployed military service members of up to \$2500. They help with car payments, electric bills, vehicle repairs, home repairs, and most of their funds go towards rent and mortgage payments. With the latest Government Shutdown, Unmet Needs was there to provide death benefits to the families of fallen soldiers.

You can purchase your ticket by calling 1-800-657-4621 ext #4060 or stop in at our Valet booth and know

that a portion of your ticket is going to support the families of those that devote their lives to serving our Country. This gives the soldiers a little piece of mind that their families back here are getting the help they need. For information about the Unmet Needs Program go online to www. unmetneeds.org Please join us for a fun way to show our appreciation to our Military members by enjoying a concert from BLACKHAWK and the Outlaws!

## **Empty Bowls brings together art,** creativity, and community to feed the hungry

Submitted by Melanie Sainz, Little Eagle Arts Foundation, Director

(Wisconsin Dells, WI; Adams, WI; & Reedsburg, WI) The local community rallied together to raise money for the Adams and Reedsburg food pantries and Little Eagle Arts Foundation (LEAF) at the Empty Bowls fundraiser. The event took place on October 11 & 12 at the Fermentation Fest in Sauk County.

Hundreds of handmade and uniquely decorated clay bowls, two kinds of hearty soup, and Ho-Chunk fry bread were served up to the event participants. The combined efforts of the volunteers from the Adams Food Pantry, LEAF, and the Student Council from the Reedsburg High School helped to raise a total of \$2,178 or \$726 for each organization.

LEAF facilitated this fundraiser and would like to extend a heart-felt thank you to all that aided in this effort: Jay Salinas, Wormfarm Institute; Bess Little, Reedsburg Food Pan-try; Robin Skala, Adams Community Food Pantry; Mike Jacobs, Paoli Clay; Jim Fuller, Econoprint; Debbie Smith, WCCU Credit Union; Fred Hebert and Theresa Wimann, Community Action of Central Wisconsin; Randy Thompson, Paint It! Pottery Shop; Katherine Clausius, Spring Hill Elementary School; Brownie and Girl Scout troops from Adams and Grand Marsh; and all of the individual ceramic artists and volunteers who helped with the creation of the bowls and the serving of the food.



Featured art at Fermentation Fest in Sauk County, WI.



BLACK RIVER FALLS | MADISON | NEKOOSA | TOMAH | WISCONSIN DELLS | WITTENBERG

# Suspicious death of actress Misty Upham is questioned

Staff Writer

Native American actress Misty Anne Upham was recently found dead after she had apparently fallen from a cliff on the Muckleshoot Res-

ervation in Washington. Upham, 32, was an American actress best known for her role in the 2008 film "Frozen River," for which she was nominated for an Indepen-dent Spirit Award for "Best Supporting Female." She appeared with Benicio del Toro in Arnaud Desplechin's "Jimmy P: Psychotherapy of a Plains Indian" (2013).

Upham was born on July 6, 1982, in Kalispell, Montana, and raised in Auburn, Washington, about 28 miles south of Seattle. She was a member of the Blackfeet Nation.

According to online reports, on October 5, 2014, Upham

Upham's family released a statement that reads in part: "But the real tragedy is this could have been prevented on a lot of levels. We pleaded with the Auburn Police to help us find Misty but Commander Stocker made the decision that Misty did not fit the cri-

members of the Auburn Police

Department.

teria of the Washington State Endangered Missing Persons Plan. This became a point of contention between us and the Auburn PD. In a statement he gave to the press he said Auburn PD doesn't have any evidence that Misty is actually missing. He went to say that Misty packed her belonging and left her apartment. This was an inaccurate statement. We believe that Commander Stocker had animosity against

Misty due to a previous en-

counter. "Now press reports are aying that Auburn police department found Misty. The ruth is the Native Amer ican community formed a earch party and found

her after

several days of searching without the help of the Auburn PD."



left her sister's apartment on the Muckleshoot Reservation on foot. The following weekend, her family announced via Facebook and other media that she had not been heard from since that time, and that they were concerned for her welfare, citing past mental

health problems.
An Auburn Police Department spokesman told CNN that police had not opened an investigation because they were not regarding Upham's absence as a "missing persons" case at that time. Family members had contacted police on several occasions within the past year to report Upham missing, he confirmed, but that she had been located and determined to be safe within a few days in each previous case. Upham's body was found

on October 16 by a small search party organized by her family and other members of the Muckleshoot Tribe. The body was found at the bottom of a cliff in a wooded area, a short distance from where the family had previously searched. Members of the search party believe her death was an accident. They said that she fell off the cliff in the dark and that her life could have been saved had there been a prompt and thorough

They claim there was a lack of action on the part of the Auburn police, and said there

Charles Upham, Misty's father, said in a Facebook statement that he believes his daughter died while trying to hide from the

"She did not commit suicide," Charles wrote. "We be-lieve she ran into the wooded area behind her apartment to hide from the police. The area in question has a hidden drop off and evidence suggests that she slipped and fell off of the steep embankment when she tried to get out of a view from the road. She simply did not see the drop-off."
Charles said his daughter

suffered from mental illness and had been poorly treated by the local police depart-

ment.
"Misty was afraid of the Auburn PD officers with good reason," he said. "In an incident prior to her disappearance, the Auburn PD came to pick up Misty on an invol-untary transport to the ER. She was cuffed and placed in a police car. Some of the officers began to taunt and tease her while she was in the car. Because it was dark they couldn't see that we, her family, were outside our apartment just across the street witnessing this behavior."

They were tapping on the window making faces at her. Misty was crying and she told them, 'You can't treat me like this. I'm a movie actress and I will use my connections to expose you.' Then another officer walked up to her asked, Are you a movie star? Then why don't [you] complain to George Clooney!

When she disappeared, police were called to her apartment because she may have been suicidal, but when the officers arrived Upham was

already gone.

Auburn Police commander Steve Stocker said, "I had never met Misty or talked to her." He dismissed the claims that the police had handled the case poorly by declining to rule her as an "endangered" missing person.

"Our detective was doing everything they could, based on the information we had and the tips that we were get-ting," Stocker said, according to online reports. "We feel that we've done everything we could, based on these circumstances, and we're just really sorry that this was the ending." King's County Medical

Examiner's Office has determined that Misty died on Oct. 5 but that the "cause and manner of (her) death are pending investigation

Upham's father also wrote that his daughter who grew up on Montana's Blackfeet reservation and in Seattle was in a very vulnerable position.

"Imagine a 32-year-old woman with mental illness, without her medication,



Misty Upham at the 81st Annual Academy Awards.

imagine she left in an un-stable mental state," he said. "Imagine for the first time in 32 years she lost contact with

everyone for 11 days." Charles went on to thank the Muckleshoot Tribe and other Tribal volunteers for

their help. He described Misty as someone who, "loved life," and had, "ambition, vision and a desire to make a difference in the world she lived

A memorial fund has been established in her memory.



#### Locations:

- St. Paul Branch Office 1724 Selby Ave November 6th, 4-6pm
- **Chicago Branch Office** 4738 N. Milwaukee Ave \*November 10th, 4-6pm\*

(Dates and Locations subject to change) \*Please note date change\*

### Don't miss this opportunity to:

- Learn about the financial & academic resources available to you through the Ho-Chunk Nation;
- Enjoy some food and refreshments;
- Receive time management tips;
- Meet a few of our Higher Education Advisors; and
- Discover what to expect as you begin earning your College Degree!

Check out our Facebook Page for updates!



For more information or to RSVP email: EDUCATIONADVISORS@HO-CHUNK.COM



# Professional Excellence I & II for Tribal Secretaries and Administrative Assistants



The Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Labor will be presenting two, three day trainings sessions for Secretarial, Administrative Assistant and Receptionist skills. This training will allow 30 individuals from the Ho-Chunk non-gaming offices to attend along with 10 individuals registered with the 477 Federal Program. The training dates for the first session will be December 2nd, 3rd, and 4th of 2014. Registration deadline will be November 21st for December training session and February 20, 2015 for the second training session. If you are interested please contact Tracy Thundercloud at 1-800-294-9349 extension 1139 or via email (Tracy.Thundercloud@ho-chunk. com). Training sessions will start at 08:30am and finish at 5:00pm each day at the Best Western Arrowhead Lodge in Black River Falls, Wisconsin.

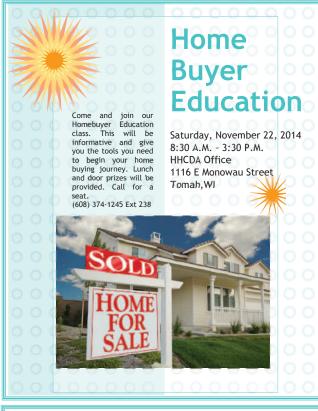


December 2-4, 2014

First 40 individuals to register by: November 21, 2014

**Contact: Tracy Thundercloud at:** 

Tracy.thundercloud@ho-chunk.com 800 / 284-9343 Extension 1139







### ATTENTION **HO-CHUNK TRIBAL MEMBERS**

Our Area Meeting Will Be

November 10, 2014

From 5:30-9:00pm

4738 N. Milwaukee Ave.

Chicago, IL 60630

Meal Will Be Potluck Hope To See You There!!

If you need to contact us, our phone number is (773)202-8433

We are also trying to update our mailing list. Please give us a call so we can make sure your information is up to date!

### District III Meeting Notice:



#### Wittenberg Area Meeting

Monday November 10, 2014 6:00pm POCHEENUNK -WITTENBERG, WI

### WI Dells Area Meeting

Tuesday November 11, 2014 6:00pm INDIAN HEIGHTS COMMUNITY BUILDING - WISCONSIN DELLS, WI

#### Nekoosa Area Meeting

Wednesday November 12, 2014 6:00pm CHAKH-HAH-CHEE COMMUNITY BUILDING

#### Green Bay Area Meeting

Thursday November 13, 2014 6:00pm 1047 S. 9<sup>TH</sup> ST, GREEN BAY, WI

Posted 8/28/14

#### Notice of Vacancy and Deadline For Districts to Nominate Seven (7) Election Board Delegates & Seven (7) Election Board Alternates For the following Districts

Districts	Nui	nber of Election	Alternate
	В	oard Members	
District 1:	Black River Falls	1	1
District 3:	Wittenberg	1	1
	Wisconsin Dells	1	1
	Wisconsin Rapids	1	1
	Green Bay	1	1
District 5:	Chicago	1	1
	Minneapolis/St. Pau	$1 \overline{1}$	1
I		7	7

TERMS: All Election board members shall serve terms of t wo (2) years. Election Board members may serve more than one term.

NOMINATIONS: Nominations for one (1) Election Board Member and one (1) Election Board Alternate to represent each District must be voted upon during your District's September monthly meeting.

The District's meeting minute must include each District's nomination for Election Board member and Election Board Alternate. The minutes must be presented or faxed will be acceptable to the Election Board Office no later

4:00 PM - FRIDAY, November 21, 2014

#### HO-CHUNK NATION ELECTION BOARD OFFICE 206 S. Roosevelt Road

P.O. Box 756 Black River Falls, WI. 54615

715/284-8900 • 800/890-0583 • 715/284-8600 Fax

### Notice of Vacancy and Deadline For Districts to Nominate One (1) Election Board Delegate For the following District

Districts Number of Election Alternate **Board Members** District 2: Tomah

(2013-2015)

TERMS: All Election Board members shall serve terms of two (2) years. Election Board members may serve more than one (1) term.

NOMINATIONS: Nominations for (1) Election Board Delegate member to represent each District must be voted upon during your District's monthly meeting.

The District's meeting minutes must include each District's nomination for Election Board member. The minutes must be presented or faxed will be acceptable to the Election Board office no later than

4:00 PM - Friday, December 12, 2014

HO-CHUNK NATION ELECTION BOARD OFFICE 206 S. Roosevelt Road P.O. Box 756

Black River Falls, WI. 54615

715/284-8900 • 800/890-0583 • 715/284-8600 Fax





### 09.19.2014

### Just Married

Chester and Courtnay Are pleased to announce their marriage



First we would like to Thank God for making this day possible for us and our family. We would like to thank all those who came near and far to share this joyous occasion with us. We also would like to give a special thank you to those we asked to stand up with us, it fills our hearts to know we have you all supporting us. Thank you to those who had a hand in making this day beautiful; Jessica Bearfield & Family, Tiffany DeCora & Family, Ben Cleveland, Sheila Corbine, Johnny WhiteCloud, Laurie Rieder, Anna Vidana, Tricia White, Cleo Goodbear, Carl Nakai, Eldridge Etsitty, Glen Lee, Dacia Nakai, Susette LaMere, Wendy Littlegeorge. Thank you to our parents Vanverd & June Dick and Jake Green and Faye White.

Thank you Mom again for all the beautiful work you did, the long hours you put in to make this such a beautiful occasion and all you sacrificed, your one heck of a woman and have an amazingly big heart! I love you mom!!!

Thank you to my Husband for going along with everything I wanted! Love your Wife

### **Student Athlete**



Jaelyn Cloud -6th grade sportscross country, basketball and softball.





The Office of General Council announces the following General Council Agency Board Vacancies:

♣ La Crosse Regular Agent2 year term (2014-2016)

♣ La Crosse Alternate Agent 2 year term (2014-2016)

♣ Mauston Regular Agent 2 year term (2014-2016)

Mauston Alternate Agent 2 year term (2014-2016)

♣ Minneapolis/ Saint Paul Regular Agent 2 year term (2014-2016)

♣ Tomah Regular Agent4 year term (2014-2018)

In accordance with General Council Agency By-laws Article III: Agent vacancies shall be posted in the tribal newsletter once. Section 5(A)

When a vacancy on the Agency exists, nomination and selection of an Agent May be made at their respective area legislative meeting. Section 5(B)

# Ladies Auxiliary Blackhawk Post #129 November 2014

Calendar

11/08/14 - Veterans Pow-wow Volkfield Camp Douglas, WI.

11/10/14 - 9:00 a.m. Executive Bldg

11/11/14 - 9:30 a.m. Ho-Chunk Gaming Black River Falls/ Bingo Hall

11/12/14 - 5:00 p.m.

Regular Meeting Executive Cafeteria/ BRF

11/14/14 - 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Soup Day/Chinese Raffle Executive Cafeteria/BRF

11/15/14 - 6 p.m.

Chili Supper serving at 4:30 p.m. District 1 Community Center/ Gun Raffle drawing MUST BE PRESENT to win! Tickets on sale now:

lickets on sale now:

1 ticket \$5.00 - 3 tickets \$10.00

11/22/14 - 5:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Hunters Breakfast

> Information contacts: Faye – 715-299-7776 Ernestine – 715-299-1551 Cecelia – 715-896-5075 Vanessa – 715-284-9343 ext.1305

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# Blue Wing Organic Community Garden volunteers celebrate fall harvest

Kathleen Roberts Staff Writer

Holding true to culture and tradition, the Blue Wing Organic Community Garden volunteers celebrated their first Fall Harvest Feast and Green Corn Celebration on October 6 and October 12.

The celebration on October 6, began with volunteers and guests filling their plates with traditional foods such as: niipana, wild rice and vegetables that were grown in the Blue Wing Organic Community Garden.

Throughout the event, hands-on demonstrations and activities were offered for the community and guests. Community member, Chris

Community member, Chris Estebo demonstrated how to make healthy fruit smoothies with a kitchen blender. Participants had a choice of fruits to mix together with almond or soy milk or yogurt. Any combination could be blended into a tasty drink.

"My dad made smoothies when I was about 10 years old. He'd get protein powder and add it our smoothies," said Estebo.

Demonstrating how to use a juicing machine, Woody

White, Organic Garden Advisor, gave participants the option of making vegetable drinks or fruit drinks. After a lot of experimentation, the participants mixed vegetables and fruits to make a potent, nutritious drink.

"We made V-5, it's like V-8

"We made V-5, it's like V-8 but different. It was the favorite juicing mixture of both fruit and vegetables," said White. Wade and Kathy Blackdeer

Wade and Kathy Blackdeer demonstrated how to prepare squash for drying. Participants carved Hubbard squash in rings which made long strips. Preparing the squash into strips made it easy to hang on drying racks or be put in a food dehydrator.

The corn drying table was a main attraction at the event. After the corn was parboiled, eager participants removed corn kernels off the cob with spoons. The kernels were placed on screens to dry in the sun, which keeps the better flavor.

Rhiannon Redcloud, age five, was a "fixture" at the corn drying table.

corn drying table.

"Rhiannon got the full spectrum of how corn is prepared," said community mem-



Wearing their personalized aprons, the Blue Wing Organic Garden volunteers take a short break during the Fall Harvest and Green Corn Celebration activities.

ber Kristin Estebo. "It might be a smaller group attending our event, but it is well worth the effort when even just one young person learns something about their culture."

During the second part of the Fall Harvest celebration, on October 12, the Blue Wing garden volunteers demonstrated food preparation such as: how to make cowboy bread and shish ka bob on the grill.

Following the Fall Harvest feast, the community members and volunteers danced in celebration. The dancing is significant to giving thanks and appreciation for a bountiful harvest.

"It was from a comment made by the late tribal elder, Conroy Greendeer, at the 2013 Ho-Chunk Housing and Community Development Agency (HHCDA) listening session that began the garden project. His suggestion of creating an organic community garden at Blue Wing was considered beneficial for the community," said Melanie Stacy,

BWOCG Project manager. "One of the original visions for the organic gardening project was to regain Hocak values."

She explained that communities helped one another. "The garden project is the return to working with one of our natural allies, the earth. This is how our ancestors survived and it is why we are still here today. If we educate our people in gardening/farming, we can begin to heal in so many ways," she said.

"The Indian Housing Plan for 2015 will go to the Indian Heights Ho-Chunk Community in Wisconsin Dells. The community will have the opportunity to establish an organic community garden."

"The Blue Wing Organic Community Garden volunteers are willing to motivate and ready to support Wisconsin Dells Ho-Chunk with the Indian Heights garden," said Stacv.

For more information and to take part in the organic health and wellness initiative, contact Melanie Stacy at the HHCDA office: (608) 374-1245.



Participants remove kernels off the cob to prepare the corn for drying.



Melanie Stacy, Blue Wing Organic Community Garden Project Manager, brings a bucket of ash to make watasoroc, hominy.



Chris Estebo mans the blender and Woodrow White heads up the juicer, to make healthy drinks at Blue Wing's fall harvest celebration.



Hubbard squash is prepared to dry, by Blue Wing Organic Community garden volunteers.



Community members and the Blue Wing Organic Community Garden volunteers fill their plates at the Fall Harvest Feast.